

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 AF-10 EUR-12 SSM-03 /095 W  
-----123818 221053Z /11

R 220922Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 7177

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: XF, EG, KU  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST VEHEMENT SADAT  
CRITICS

REF: KUWAIT 6565

1. KUWAITI PRESS OF DEC. 21 REPORTS THAT THE GOK HAS SUS-  
PENDED THE PRO-SYRIAN DAILY AL RAI AL AM FOR THREE DAYS  
(DEC. 21-23) AND HAS ISSUED A LETTER OF WARNING TO THE  
LEADING KUWAITI CONSERVATIVE ISLAMCI RELIGIOUS GROUP, THE  
SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY, THREATENING TO CANCEL ITS RIGHT  
TO EXIST. BOTH ACTIONS WERE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO  
VEHEMENT ANTI-SADAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THE FIRST STATEMENT  
WAS ISSUED BY THE SOCIETY ON NOV. 19 AND WAS SUMMARIZED  
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IN REFTTEL. THE SECOND AL RAI AL AM'S BITTER DEC. 19  
EDITORIAL "ANALYSIS" OF SADAT'S PERSONALITY, WHICH ASSERTED  
THAT HE HAS A "HERO COMPLEX" DUE TO HIS LONG ECLIPSE BY  
NASIR. THE WRITER ALLEGED THAT THIS HAD RESULTED IN A  
"DESIRE FOR PROMINENCE", A WEAKNESS WHICH "NON-ARAB  
PARTIES" HAVE LONG EXPLOITED AND FOR WHICH THEY HAVE  
REWARDED HIM.

2. COMMENT: THE NEWSPAPER'S SUSPENSION ACCORDS WITH RECENT GOK PRACTICE AND THE EDITORIAL FALLS QUITE CLEARLY WITHIN ONE OF THE AREAS OF COMMENT PROHIBITED BY LAW TO THE KUWAITI PRESS. ARTICLE 24 OF THE 1961 KUWAITI PRESS LAW PROHIBITS "PUBLICATION...WHICH MIGHT INJURE THE REPUTATIONS OF HEADS OF STATES OR DISTURB CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND OTHER ARAB OR FRIENDLY COUNTRIES...". THE WARNING TO THE SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY LIKEWISE HAS PRECEDENTS IN RECENT KUWAIT HISTORY. SINCE AUGUST 1976, VARIOUS ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH, LIKE ALL LEGAL ENTITIES IN KUWAIT, MUST HAVE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO EXIST, HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED OR REORGANIZED FOR EXCEEDING THE BOUNDS OF THEIR PURPOSES AS DESCRIBED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARTERS. A PRESS REPORT ON THE GOK WARNING TO THE SOCIETY INDICATES THAT THE SOCIETY HAD ENGAGED IN UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY WHEN IT ISSUED THE NOVEMBER 19 "POLITICAL" STATEMENT, A PRONOUNCEMENT NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE STRICTLY RELIGIOUS PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT HAD BEEN FOUNDED. IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL TERMS, WE SEE THESE INVOCATIONS OF KUWAITI LEGALITY AS FINE TUNING OF THE GOK EFFORT TO KEEP A BALANCE BETWEEN SADAT AND HIS DETRACTORS. KUWAITI LEADERS HAVE WIDE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPLY THESE LAWS AND, IN THE CASE OF THE SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY AT LEAST, IT IS PROBABLE THAT CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT WENT INTO FORMULATING THE PRECISE NATURE OF OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CHASTISEMENT OF THIS POWERFUL, WELL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATION. MAESTRONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENSORSHIP, POLITICAL LEADERS, THE PRESS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 KUWAIT 6565  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, MPOL, XF, EG, KU, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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